

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 835

By Pitts

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Mr. Billy Frank Smith of Montgomery County.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened and deeply moved to learn of the passing of Mr. Billy Smith; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for his fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, after receiving his Bachelor of Science degree in Agronomy from Tennessee Technological University, Mr. Smith embarked upon his lifelong pursuit of soil conservation; and

WHEREAS, Billy Smith started his peerless work with soil conservation in 1949 as a student trainee and went on to serve as a soil conservationist in McMinnville and a District Conservationist in Manchester, Newport, and Clarksville; and

WHEREAS, after dedicating thirty-seven years to the United States Department of Agriculture Soil Conservation Service, he retired as the District Conservationist of Clarksville after earning the respect of his peers and the communities he served for the exceptional quality of his work; and

WHEREAS, after compiling a history of reputable service, Mr. Smith was recognized with an outstanding performance rating, an Above Average Sustained Performance award, and a Certificate of Merit, fitting recognition for his excellent work in soil conservation; and

WHEREAS, Billy Smith had the distinction of carrying out an accelerated soil and water conservation program that was technically advanced, modern, and widely accepted, while also generating an overwhelming awareness of the service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith strove to make life better for the residents of the communities he served; he launched a highly successful no-till program, as well as an installation program of livestock waste disposal lagoons and more than 2,400 farm ponds in Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, a shining moment during his illustrious career was his work in the South Guthrie community, where the disadvantaged residents suffered constant health problems associated with the frequent flooding of their community; through his diligent efforts, Billy Smith helped develop and install a flood prevention measure which converted the flooding problem; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith continued his work with the community through the South Guthrie Improvement Association and the Rural Development Committee of Montgomery County, a partnership that resulted in the initiation of several other projects, such as community beautification, community water supply, adult education classes, improved roads, and solid waste disposal; and

WHEREAS, Billy Smith valiantly served in the United States Army during World War II in Saipan and, afterward, was worked with military authorities at Fort Campbell, providing soils information and interpretations to authorities on several sites and offering technical assistance for the development of a large lake at Fort Campbell; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith's outstanding success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to his reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and his rare ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smith was a stalwart pillar of the community, working tirelessly with a number of community organizations and rendering astute service as a member of the Bi-County Solid Waste Board and the Clarksville Rotary Club Board, of which he was Director and was instrumental in a Rotary Park expansion program, and Chairman of the Rotary Club's Project Soar, a tree planting program with the boy scouts; he was active in scouting for many years, serving as a scoutmaster and cub master for five years each; and

WHEREAS, a dedicated conservationist, Billy Smith was a director of the local Audubon Society chapter; Chairman of the Conservation Committee of the Warioto Audubon Society, the Land Use Committee of the Andrew Jackson chapter of the Soil Conservation Society of America, and the Tennessee Council of Chapters; and President of the Montgomery County

Conservation Club, and worked with a multitude of organizations on their various conservation projects; and

WHEREAS, a staunch advocate of good land use, Mr. Smith penned articles which were published in the nationally distributed *Soil Conservation Magazine*, as well as *The Tennessee Farmer*, and presented a paper, *Land Use Planning*, at a state land use symposium; and

WHEREAS, he was a giving person who epitomized the ideal of the perfect professional, dedicated public servant, and reliable friend and neighbor of Clarksville and Montgomery County; and

WHEREAS, Billy Smith was an active and devout member of First Baptist Church, which he served faithfully for many years as a Sunday school teacher; and

WHEREAS, he was also deeply devoted to his family, and he always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Billy Smith enjoyed the loving companionship of his devoted wife, Mary Margaret McWhirter, and was the proud father of a daughter, two sons, two step-daughters, and three step-sons; he will also be fondly remembered by his eighteen grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, Billy Frank Smith leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Mr. Billy Frank Smith, reflecting fondly upon his impeccable character and his stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. Smith.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

